THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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Art is Back

The Cleveland Museum of Art Celebrates Expansion and Renovation Milestone with the Return of 900 Works in 19 Renovated Galleries

Museum celebrates opening of the second floor of its historic 1916 building with ribbon cutting ceremony and free activities on June 29

CLEVELAND (June 3, 2008) — The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) returns more than 900 works of art to 19 spectacularly renovated galleries on the second floor of its historic 1916 museum building on June 29. These works from the museum's permanent collection have been in storage since 2005 when CMA closed for an expansion and renovation project that is re-imagining the museum for the community. Works to be featured when the second floor of the historic 1916 building reopens at the end of June include world-renowned masterpieces from the museum's collections of European art from 1600-1800 and American art from 1700-1900, as well as the beloved Armor Court.

"Let me be the first to welcome back the community to its museum and its collection," Timothy Rub, CMA director, said. "This transformational project will not only impact, enlighten and entertain audiences today but will affect generations to come."

Visitors returning to the 1916 second floor galleries will enjoy works from the heart of the museum's collection of Western European art as well as the formative stages in the development of American art. The newly renovated galleries are arranged around three spaces: the Armor Court, the central rotunda and the former interior garden court. The interior garden court has been transformed into a gallery for Italian painting and sculpture from 1600-1800 and the display of miniatures and other small works from 17th-century Europe. The rotunda, cleared of display cases previously installed there, is now the central orientation spot from which to explore the building. The Armor Court, meanwhile, is virtually unchanged since its comprehensive renovation in 1998.

Works from the following collections will be on view:

- The Armor Court is the largest and preeminent regional collection of arms and armor and revered as the finest space in the U.S. dedicated to arms and armor
- European painting and decorative art, 1600 – 1800
- French and German art, 1700 – 1800
- Dutch painting, 1600 – 1800
- European painting and sculpture from 1600 – 1700, one of the greatest collections of Italian Baroque painting in America
- The art of Fabergé –one of the largest collections of Fabergé outside of Russia
- Neoclassical painting and sculpture
- Neoclassical decorative art
- British painting, sculpture, and decorative art, 1700 – 1900
- European miniatures from 1570s – 1820s on permanent view for the first time in years in a special, dedicated gallery
- American painting, sculpture, and decorative art, 1700 – 1900

Visitors strolling through the galleries can expect to see some of CMA's most iconic works back on view including:

Terpsichore, Antonio Canova (Italian, 1757 - 1822) 1816

The Holy Family with Mary Magdalene, El Greco (Spanish, 1541 - 1614) c. 1590 - 1595

Christ on the Cross, El Greco (Spanish, 1541 - 1614) c. 1600 - 1610

The Jester Calabazas, Diego de Velázquez (Spanish, 1599 - 1660) c. 1631 - 1632

Stag at Sharkey's, George Bellows (American, 1882 - 1925) 1909

Dora Wheeler, William Merritt Chase (American, 1849 - 1916) 1882 - 1883

Twilight in the Wilderness, Frederic Edwin Church (American, 1826 - 1900) 1860

Apollo and the Muses (five works) by Charles Meynier (French, 1768 - 1832)

Polymnia, Muse of Eloquence, 1800

Erato, Muse of Lyrical Poetry, 1802

Calliope, Muse of Epic Poetry, 1800

Clio, Muse of History, 1798

Apollo, God of Light, Eloquence, Fine Arts with Urania, Muse of Astronomy, 1798

Imperial Red Cross Easter Egg, House of Fabergé (Russian, 1846 - 1920) 1915

Armor for Man and Horse with Völs-Colonna Arms, Italy, 1575

Double-Barreled Sporting Gun of Napoleon I, Jean Le Page (French) 1809

Opening Day Celebration – June 29

To celebrate this milestone in the museum's expansion and renovation, the public is invited to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 29, 2008. Museum officials and regional dignitaries will address the public and officially open the galleries. Visitors attending the opening day celebration can enjoy a full day of free events and programs for all ages.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, South Terrace
10:30–11:00 a.m.
Join director Timothy Rub, community leaders, and students from the Cleveland Institute of Music and John Hay High School for the official ceremony

1916 Architecture Tour: Then and Now
11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.
Learn about the behind-the-scenes renovation work in the historic 1916 building

Gallery Tour: Old Friends in New Spaces
11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.
Tour the new galleries to learn about your favorite works in their new homes

Family Tours
2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m.
Visit the galleries and then enjoy hands-on projects with your whole family

Sketching in the Armor Court
2:00–4:00 p.m.
Draw arms, so to speak

Art Carts in the Armor Court
1:00–3:00 p.m.
Feel the weight of a real piece of armor and experience other fun, hands-on experiences in the Armor Court gallery

Family Express Studios in the Outdoor Courtyard and Education Classrooms
1:00–4:30 p.m.
Create art projects designed for the whole family and enjoy an afternoon of creativity and live music

Art Detour: A journey through the expansion and renovation project

Walking from the museum's main lobby to the newly renovated galleries, a colorful and engaging way finding system will take visitors on a journey through the expansive project and end at the second floor galleries of the historic 1916 building.

Along the way, this Art Detour shares the goals of the expansion project and how visitors can become involved and offers opportunities for visitors to watch the ongoing construction of the project's West Wing and atrium. The entire Art Detour is ADA accessible.

Looking ahead

The opening of the second floor galleries this month is the first unveiling of CMA's expansion and renovation project. In the coming year, additional project milestones include the special exhibition space of the East Wing in October 2008 and the installation of modern and contemporary art within the main galleries of the newly constructed East Wing in June 2009.

Hours and information

Gallery hours beginning June 29 are Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. Closed on Mondays. Nearly 600 parking spaces are available for a charge in the newly expanded CMA parking garage, located on the west side of the museum off of Jeptha Drive. For additional information call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org. Admission to the galleries displaying CMA's permanent collection is free to the public.

About The Cleveland Museum of Art

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums with a collection that spans 6,000 years of creative achievement in the arts and is world-renowned for its quality and breadth. Currently undergoing a multi-year expansion project that will re-imagine the museum, it is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art education.

The Cleveland Museum of Art has a membership of nearly 25,000 households and is generously supported by a broad range of individuals, foundations, and businesses in Cleveland and Northeastern Ohio. The Cleveland Museum of Art is generously funded by Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. Additional support from the Ohio Arts Council, which helped fund this program with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. For more information on the museum, its holdings, programs, and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

******Images are available upon request***

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